



## Michigan Mentoring Month Recap January 2009

The 2009 Michigan Mentoring Month was a great success. In January, 62 recruitment, recognition, and/or celebration events were registered with Mentor Michigan. Mentor Michigan also distributed 38 Michigan Mentoring Month mini grants to several organizations to help them host those events.

### Recruitment, Recognition and/or Celebration Events

#### Mid-Michigan



##### *Teach a Kid to Play Day – January 17*

Thomas Burke is the chair of The Mentoring Collaborative of Jackson County and organized this event to teach youth to play chess and checkers. At the event Josh Rennell and Andrew Bondarenko were crowned the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place chess champions respectively, while Abby Kono was crowned the checker champion. Mr. Burke also introduced a chess club for youth that will begin in Jackson in the near future.

*Josh Rennell concentrates on his chess match. Photo courtesy of the Jackson Citizen Patriot.*

##### *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mentor Inspiration Breakfast – January 19*

Coordinated by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint, this event featured the keynote speaker – Dr. Carl Taylor of Michigan State University, current volunteer testimonials, and community leaders. It also introduced a “Big for the Day” component which matched interested community members with unmatched children. The event was well attended by a wide variety of community individuals.

##### *Ice Skating at The Summit – January 25*

Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region invited “Littles” to take their “Bigs” ice skating to thank them during Michigan Mentoring Month. The Summit at The Capital Centre in Delta Township donated two hours of free ice time plus skate rentals.



*S.T.O.M.P. Kick-off Extravaganza coordinators take a moment to reflect on their event.*

##### *Supporting Teen Opportunities Mentoring Program Kick-Off Extravaganza – January 26*

This event kicked off S.T.O.M.P. – a new mentoring program in Eaton County. The event was planned by Michigan State University Extension in Eaton County. The program looks to find individuals to mentor at-risk youth – especially foster care teenagers. S.T.O.M.P. shared some staggering statistics with those in attendance as well. Did

you know that only five percent of youth in foster care attend college – and that only one percent of those youth actually graduate with a degree?

#### *State Senators Cassis and Jacobs Met with Mentor Connection - January 28*

Michigan State Senators Nancy Cassis (15<sup>th</sup> District) and Gilda Jacobs (14<sup>th</sup> District) met with Oakland County youths and their mentors in celebration of Michigan Mentoring Month. The matches are engaged at Mentor Connection, a mentoring program within Jewish Family Service in metro Detroit. Both Senators Cassis and Jacobs are members of the Mentor Connection Advisory Board.

#### *Mentor Recognition and Celebration Event – January 28*

The Michigan State University Extension Ingham County 4-H Mentoring Program coordinated this event. It featured an awards ceremony and two motivating speakers sharing their stories about the importance of mentoring. One of the speakers was CJ Quinney – Big Brother to a Lansing youth and the 2007 Governor's Service Awards Mentor of the Year.

#### *Warmth: Pass It On Luncheon – January 31*

The MSU Extension Clinton County 4-H Mentoring Program planned this luncheon with the hopes of raising money to donate to Capital Area Community Services' *Walk for Warmth*, a walk-a-thon to help families in the area who may be struggling with paying their heating costs. The event raised over \$1,300. It also provided an opportunity to recognize the mentors in Clinton County's site-based mentoring program, Key Mentoring.



*Guests take the chance to fill up while enjoying the opportunity to learn about mentoring.*

## **Southeast Michigan**

#### *6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mentor Celebration Gala – January 22*

This event was coordinated by the Metro Detroit Mentor Collaboration and held at The Millennium Centre Theatre in Southfield. The event featured a Silent Auction and Awards Ceremony where 10 Mentor of the Year recipients were honored. On hand were several special guests, including former University of Michigan head football coach and current Mentor Michigan recruitment spokesman Lloyd Carr.



*Lloyd Carr addresses the MDMC's Mentor of the Year recipients.*

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual World of Mentoring – January 31*

This event, coordinated by the Michigan State University Extension Wayne County 4-H Mentoring Program, honored mentors and mentees of the year, featured special mentee performances, and showcased winning essays and poems from various mentors and mentees.

## West/Southwest Michigan



*61Syx Teknique shows off their dancing skills for the Magic of Mentoring Celebration.*

### *Magic of Mentoring Celebration – January 6*

The Ottawa County Mentoring Collaborative planned this event as an opportunity for local mentoring programs to partner together to honor those in the community who dedicate time and resources to support mentoring. Special guests included Zeeland Mayor Lester Hoogland, 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judge Ed Post, and Senator Wayne Kuipers (30<sup>th</sup> District).

"Mentoring is one of the most profound and meaningful ways an individual can give back to their community. Students who are at risk place the greatest burdens on our school districts and as they grow they place a huge burden on our criminal justice system. Providing 'at risk' students with a caring and nurturing adult makes a difference for a lifetime."

- State Senator Wayne Kuipers

### *Big Brothers Big Sisters of Berrien & Cass, Inc. Open Houses – January 14, 20, & 28*

BBBS of Berrien & Cass, Inc. held three separate open houses in Southwest Michigan to share their school-based mentoring opportunities with various community members. Three new Lunch Buddy programs will be started in the near future at area elementary schools.



*Southwest Michigan community members learn about BBBS mentoring opportunities.*

"When you change a child, you change the world."

- Kathryn Rossow, CEO/Executive Director, BBBS of Berrien & Cass, Inc.



*Interested pastors learn how they can encourage their congregations to mentor.*

### *Pastor's Breakfast – January 20*

Barnabas Ministries hosted their Michigan Mentoring Month event to encourage local pastors to help the organization find mentors from their congregations. The organization had 21 people in attendance at the breakfast.

Attendees heard an inspiring testimonial from a Barnabas Ministries youth who is currently working to save money to attend college after learning about budgeting from his mentor.

### *A Mentor/Volunteer Extravaganza – January 22*

The New Genesis 5-Star After School Program in Kalamazoo presented this program which featured a drum solo, give-a-ways, and an award ceremony. All mentors that volunteer their time to New Genesis received a free night at the movies for their generosity.



*New Genesis youth honor their volunteers with a dance.*

"When you walk through this building between 3:15 and 6:30, it is ALIVE!"

- Joyce Armstrong, New Genesis

## **Special Promotions**

### **Fox Sports Network – Detroit**

Throughout the entire month of January, two 30-second public service announcements (PSAs) on mentoring aired during each Detroit Pistons and Detroit Red Wings games aired on Fox Sports Network – Detroit. The PSAs feature Mentor Michigan's recruitment spokesperson and former University of Michigan head football coach Lloyd Carr. The PSAs aired nearly 100 times during the month.

### **State of Michigan Proclamation**

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm officially proclaimed the month of January as Michigan Mentoring Month and encouraged all state citizens to mentor a child.

### **City of Farmington Hills Proclamation - January 12**

Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, Jerry Ellis, on behalf of his City Council, proclaimed January 2009 as Mentor Month. Mayor Ellis encouraged all citizens to become involved in mentoring to make a difference and to positively impact the lives of Michigan's children.



*Major General Thomas Cutler congratulates GMS's newest mentoring matches.*

### **National Guard Launches Lunch Buddies Mentoring Program in Lansing - January 12**

The Michigan National Guard, in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region, launched a school-based mentoring program at Gardner Middle School in Lansing. The program, called Lunch Buddies, kicked off with two matches – Lieutenant Colonel Shawn Harris and Davion and Major Steven Gauss and Andre. On hand to congratulate them were Major General Thomas Cutler and Michelle Soucy of BBBS.

### **2009 North American International Auto Show - January 19 – 25**

During the 2009 North American International Auto Show, one 30-second Lloyd Carr public service announcement (PSA) on mentoring aired every hour on two LED screens located at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Washington Boulevard in downtown Detroit. The PSA featured Mentor Michigan's recruitment spokesperson and former University of Michigan head football coach Lloyd Carr. The PSA aired over 150 times during the course of the 2009 show.

### **Reading for Leading by First Gentleman Mulhern - January 26**

Each week Michigan's First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern distributes an e-newsletter called "Reading for Leading." In it he discusses ways to handle the challenges of leadership at home, work, and in life. For Michigan Mentoring Month Mulhern addressed the need for mentoring programs to facilitate conversation topics for matches to keep their relationships on track.

## Media/Publicity Hits

### **Radio Interviews Discussing Mentoring/Michigan Mentoring Month**

January 21 at 8:00 a.m.  
Paul W. Smith, WJR Detroit  
Mentor Michigan's recruitment  
spokesperson and former University of  
Michigan head football coach Lloyd Carr

January 27 at 7:20 a.m.  
Greg O'Connor, WKHM Jackson  
Michigan Community Service Commission  
(MCSC) chairman, First Gentleman Daniel  
G. Mulhern

January 27 at 8:10 a.m.  
Paul Miller, WPHM Port Huron  
MCSC chairman, First Gentleman  
Mulhern

January 28 at 6:45 a.m.  
Lori Moore, WKZO Kalamazoo  
MCSC chairman, First Gentleman  
Mulhern

January 28 at 7:20 a.m.  
Lou Lobsinger, WWCK Flint  
MCSC chairman, First Gentleman  
Mulhern

January 28 at 7:40 a.m.  
Bob Mundie, WWJ Detroit  
MCSC chairman, First Gentleman  
Mulhern

### **Blog Postings Discussing Mentoring/Michigan Mentoring Month**

*January 13 – Michigan Nonprofit  
Association Blog*  
**Member Spotlight: Metro Detroit  
Collaboration**

"The key to mentoring seems to be  
working together. When meeting, a mentee  
and match's discussion may touch on such  
topics as establishing future goals, defeating  
current obstacles, or dealing with outcomes  
of past decisions..."

To read more, visit  
<http://mnaonline.wordpress.com/>.

*January 16 – Metromode Blog*  
**Strength in Creating and Renewing  
Relationships**  
To read, visit <http://www.metromodemedia.com/blogs/bloggers/KyleCaldwell0099.aspx>.

### **Op-Eds on Mentoring/Michigan Mentoring Month**

*January 23 - The Mining Journal (Marquette)*  
**Helping Hand Seen – submitted by Michigan Community Service Commissioner Joe  
Lubig**

"This January is National Mentoring Month, and I hope you will join Governor Jennifer M.  
Granholtz and First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern to also declare this month as Michigan  
Mentoring Month."

To read more, visit <http://www.miningjournal.net/page/content.detail/id/521598.html?nav=5067>.

## News Features on Mentoring/Michigan Mentoring Month

*January 15 – Council of Michigan Foundations Newswire*

### **Need for Mentors Grows – Michigan Mentoring Update**

“Paul is a 14-year-old living on Detroit’s eastside who loves basketball, enjoys school and is worried because he and some of his friends are being pressured to join a neighborhood gang...”

[http://www.michiganfoundations.org/s\\_cmfdoc.asp?CID=335&DID=22486](http://www.michiganfoundations.org/s_cmfdoc.asp?CID=335&DID=22486).

*January 19 – Petoskey News-Review*  
**Northern Neighbor: Mentors make a Difference**

“To be successful, one Alanson High School senior realized sometimes you have to look outside of your family...”

To read more, visit <http://www.petoskeynews.com/articles/2009/01/19/news/doc497485fdb20b5430441022.prt>.

*January 21 – Muskegon Chronicle*  
**More mentors needed for Big Brothers, Big Sisters**

“Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore has launched a campaign to find mentors willing to help at-risk children who need positive role models...”

To read more, visit <http://www.mlive.com/Printer/printer.ssf?/base/news-16/1232536517310810.xml&coll=8>.

*January 22 – Journal Newspapers Online*  
**State senator urges citizens to mentor youth**

“The holidays have a way of focusing our attention on those less fortunate than us and what we all could be doing to support our communities more...”

To read more, visit <http://www.journalgroup.com/Opinion/9186/state-senator-urges-Citizens-to-mentor-youth>.

*January 24 – Kalamazoo Gazette*  
**Many children would benefit from a mentor**

“January is National Mentoring Month. If you are successful in your job, you probably had a mentor. If you are a trusted friend, or if you make a good family member, you almost certainly had a mentor...”

To read more, visit <http://www.mlive.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/columns-5/123277444679280.xml&coll=7>.

*January 28 – HOMETOWNlife.com*  
**Mentor of the Year gives direction to a young life**

“Wendee Rex serves as the private dining director for Fleming’s Steakhouse, one of the ritzier restaurants in Birmingham. The young man she mentors once lived under a bridge...”

To read more, visit <http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20090128/NEWS/301280001>.

*January 30 – The Ann Arbor News*  
**‘Big Inspiration’ Washtenaw group honors volunteers – and seeks more**

“Thirteen-year-old Josh Greer says there are two things he wants to be when he’s an adult: a professional basketball player and a mentor...”

To read more, visit <http://www.mlive.com/news/annarbornnews/index.ssf?/base/news-31/123333001748750.xml&coll=2>.